

# Clark County Sheriff's Office

## Custody Branch

### Annual Report for 2004



#### **Clark County Sheriff's Office**

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# Chief's Message

As 2004 came to a close, I was offered and accepted the Sheriff's appointment to the position of Undersheriff. I will meet this change with mixed emotions. I have spent the last 27 years within the Custody Branch and have served as the branch Chief for the last 14 years. While excited about my new role and the opportunities and challenges that it will present, I will greatly miss the Custody family that I am leaving.

In the nearly three decades that I have been a member of the Custody Team, we have seen some amazing changes. The opening of the Main Jail in 1984, the Jail Work Center in 2000 and the addition of technology such as computers and radios to an environment that had previously been completely manual. These are but a few of the changes that have resulted. But one thing has remained consistent through all those years, that is the dedication and commitment of the men and women that work in the Custody Branch of the Sheriff's Office. Many of the names have changed throughout the years but the new names come with the same desire to serve their community and drive to do the best job that they can in a very, very difficult workplace. It takes a unique individual to work in a potentially very depressing environment and be able to rise above the negative aspects of the job and maintain a positive "can-do" attitude. I am proud to say that I have met dozens of these unique individuals over the years.

As my tenure as the Jail Chief ends, I take this opportunity to thank the employees of the Clark County Jail. You have the right to feel proud of yourselves and your profession just as I feel proud to have been a part of your professional family.

Thanks for the memories.  
*Joe Dunegan*

# Assistant Chief's Message

I would like to again take my hat off to the hard working, dedicated professional men and women who work for the Custody Branch of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. Whether the position is in the kitchen, laundry, as an officer or sergeant, in management or jail industry these men and women work in very difficult conditions with increased demands on a daily basis. They show up day by day and do an excellent job.

At the close of 2004, I was offered and accepted the position of Jail Chief Administrator. As we begin this next year I would like to share with you the Custody 2005 Goals and Objectives for this branch.

*Jackie Batties*

## **Management Goals**

As Chief Jail Administrator, I am committed to maintaining an environment where:

- \*Employees work in a positive atmosphere free from intimidation, harassment or discrimination.
- \*The public is greeted with courtesy, respect and understanding for their situation or needs and officers may use their discretion to resolve situations to meet our mission.
- \* Inmates are safe and secure.
- \*Physical force is the rare exception not the rule and force is used to control never punish.
- \*Our facilities are held in high regard.
- \*Our service to the community is a source of pride for everyone.
- \*The necessary tools, equipment and training are provided to the members of the Custody Branch.

**The Management Team Will:**

- \*Focus our on our strengths but also confront our weaknesses.
- \*Continue to acknowledge positive performance through awards and recognition.
- \*Collectively seek innovations to improve the working environment for everyone.
- \*Share with staff: Information, challenges and the strategic direction of the Sheriff's Office and Clark County

**Priority—Mentally Ill Offenders**

The demands from our mentally ill/special needs offender population continue to rise and has become one of our top priorities. In an effort to provide adequate services we will:

- \*Continue developing partnerships between the Jail, Courts, Corrections' Probation and Mental Health Professionals.
- \*Provide training for staff.
- \*Establish a standard of care and expectations for working with mentally ill offenders.
- \*Identify community partners and the links needed to gain assistance pre and post conviction
- \*Identify and advocate for alternatives to incarceration.

**The following are goals and objectives that Command Staff have identified as important for the coming biennium.****Current Projects & Goals**

- \*Complete the booking remodel and expansion project
- \*Continue to evaluate options for the housing and classification of special needs offenders.
- \*Continue to build relationships with PHS and provide adequate medical services for the inmates of the Clark County Jail and Juvenile
- \*Identify immediate transition plans to address overcrowding with alternatives to incarceration (Jail to Work Programs)
- \*Achieve and maintain higher standards of cleanliness within the jail and establish a regular intake vent cleaning schedule with Facilities
- \*Re-paint and install wall bumpers on the upper floor of the facility
- \*Improve safety and security, repair vents in cells to improve safety of the facility
- \*Achieve ADA compliance within the Main Jail Facility
- \*Upgrade digital camera for investigations
- \*Implement an electronic incident reporting system
- \*Revise the classification reference manual and the corresponding policies and procedures
- \*Continue to develop systems that streamline processes, eliminate redundancies and improves accuracy
- \*Explore digital video recording and possible funding sources
- \*Implement electronic signatures in Video Arraignment
- \*Explore implementation of EVO/CVO training for transport officers
- \*Coordinate to implement regular "mock drills" to address emergency response situations
- \*Implement medical services at the Jail Work Center

**Future Projects and Goals**

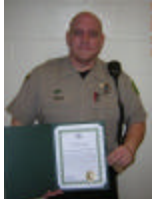
- \*Identify future staffing needs for the entire branch
- \*Provide training to improve the quality and accuracy of in-house criminal investigations
- \*Develop a program a program to assist Law Enforcement to clear unsolved crimes.
- \*Explore the possibilities of the Clark County Jail meeting NCCHC standards and the achievement of accreditation
- \*Develop Post Incarceration plans to connect local offenders with local resources and support services.
- \*Address Inmate Population trends and identify potential impacts to the community due to lack of bed space
- \*Update CMS jail classification tools.

# Clark County Law Enforcement Center

## Operations

Staffing levels continue to remain static while the demands associated with care and custody of the inmate population has steadily increased. Through out the year staff has filled the void left by lengthy vacancies stemming from reservists activated to military duty. We offer our continued thanks to Brian Catlett and Todd Pederson, as well as all those currently serving our Country. In addition, the following staff were recognized with individual awards

Officer D. Gunderson was awarded a Life Saving Award after he found an inmate who appeared to be sleeping in an odd position. He investigated and discovered this inmate had attempted to commit suicide by hanging herself from an upper bunk.



Officers C. Anderson, G. Bull and D. Calhoun received Life Saving Awards for their response to a medical emergency in the female living unit. Officers took turns applying chest compressions until relieved by Vancouver Fire Department.

Officer E. Zimmerman too, received a Life Saving Award last year. While assisting with medical rounds he investigated when an inmate did not respond to a call for her medications. He then noticed that the inmate was unresponsive and had twitching limbs, he removed a bed sheet from her neck and assisted with care until medical personnel arrived.

Officers D. Calhoun and J. Sparks received Life Saving Awards for stopping a suicide attempt. They were exceptionally observant of odd behavior in the booking area and thus more closely monitored an offender.

Officer T. Drake received an Exemplary Performance Award in 2004 for an incident in 2003. While off duty, he came upon a recent accident. Officer Drake rendered aid, assisted in putting out a vehicle fire and helped deputies on the scene.

Officers L. Elliot and B. Pilakowski as well as Sergeant R. Anderson received Exemplary Performance Awards for their response to a dangerous situation within the jail. A mentally ill offender, charged with murder, was discovered to have a small knife in his possession. The officers worked diligently and used excellent communication skills to resolve the situation safely for everyone. Sergeant Anderson demonstrated solid decision-making and exceptional writing skills in securing all necessary authorizations and obtaining a warrant for a body cavity search. We are grateful for the safe outcome of this highly unusual but extremely dangerous situation.

Our ever-increasing special needs/suicidal/mentally ill offender population has put a significant drain on our resources by tying up holding areas, creating dangerous bio-hazardous conditions and threatening the safety of other inmates and staff with violent behaviors. We have been forced to hire specially trained crews to sanitize cells rendered uninhabitable by the behavior of these mentally ill offenders. Their violent behavior has required multiple officers to respond from routine, daily functions such as meal service and medical or attorney visits, thus taking these staff away from the remaining inmate population.

We appreciate the efforts and excellent service of all our staff; Thank You

Operations Commanders

Joe Barnett

Nikki Costa

# Main Jail

## Security Response Team

This group of volunteer officers is tasked with searching the facility on a regular basis conducting an annual search and responding to any urgent search needs. SRT is comprised of 22 members supervised by Sergeants Dougher and Wolfe. The team managed one strike and one training day per month. The average number of officers who attended these events was six. Training this year focused on defensive tactics and ground grappling. Commander Barnett taught an additional seminar on crimes commonly committed within jail facilities.

## Classification Unit

This unit is responsible for managing all functions related to the classification of inmates. They must interview each offender as they enter the Clark County Jail or Jail Work Center. They determine the degree of security required by each offender, the housing assignment and regulations for association within and without the confinement areas. Each offender who requests to participate in a program (e.g. AA, NA, GED, work programs, etc) is screened by this unit to make sure that the program and inmate are appropriate for each other.

## Transport

This unit did an exceptional job in servicing the numerous courts this year. The Judges have even expressed their pleasure in the working arrangement. Sergeant Paradis specifically stands out as an indicator for the success of this unit. His ability to keep open the lines of communication with the Courts, utilize his staff efficiently and make changes and adjustments as necessary is an excellent example of the skills needed to supervise an effective unit. With the County at large continuing its exponential growth rate and the addition of a new Judge, it is anticipated that additional staffing will be needed to manage equitably these changes.

## Video Arraignment

In a bid to manage pre-existing growth; in population, release requirements and other influences, the County approved a joint project between the Courts and their remodel, County Information Systems and the Sheriff's Office. Video Arraignment was constructed in the Jail's former kitchen area and was implemented in September. There are many benefits to this new Arraignment option. These include; better service to the courts, timely release of offenders, electronic distribution of appropriate documents and reduced offender movement. It is this reduced offender movement that produced the greatest benefit for Transport Officers. Should an offender prove a security risk either to themselves, staff, court personnel or the public, these people can be arraigned without leaving the secure confinements of the jail. Attorneys still have full access to their clients and family can see the offender but staff time is optimized and security concerns are more easily managed. Currently the second phase of the project is being implemented, this includes a digital signature device that will further reduce paperwork and timelines.

## Medical

Medical services for inmates are provided by the Sheriff's Office through a vendor contract with Prison Health Services. Unfortunately, this unit experienced some issues that in a joint decision with PHS corporate offices saw major managerial changes. Debi Titus has been sent from Idaho to take the helm here and it is through her professionalism, willingness to listen and be a creative problem solver, that a great deal of trust has been reestablished with this vendor. The coming year's partnership looks more promising as we expand to have on site check ins at the Jail Work Center.

## Jail Administration Support

Support Staff consists of Carolee Arkills, Becky Fisk, Bethany Rohr, Kate Weese and Elaine Wright. Specialists Fisk and Weese are stationed at the Jail Work Center, Work Release building and provide office support for that facility. This includes offender phone checks for those working in the community in the Work Release Program, fiscal deposits, statistical tracking as well as paperwork support for the numerous forms needed for this line of business.

Specialists Arkills, Rohr and Wright are located at the Main Jail Administration offices. This was a very busy year with a number of projects and changes to improve services for the jail. This included a major restructure of the Jail Clearance database and procedures. These changes were made to heighten the security of these facilities, to safeguard those given entry as well as for those working inside. Also new systems have been developed to monitor medical grievances, clearance process status, offender medical bills, Jail Work Center Electronic logs and various sundry other items. While the multiplication of such forms and tracking may appear onerous at times, this is the mechanism that allows these specialists to make sure operations has items they need, repairs completed and statistically report to the various state and federal agencies who require large amounts of data.

Toward the end of 2004, the Sheriff's Office was made aware of a grant opportunity. In light of the numerous requests for bio-hazardous cleaning, cell space and various other statistics and reports, the funds were applied for and granted to remodel the booking area. Once completed, this project will provide four new holding cells, two of which will have a padded surface.

# Jail Work Center



One of the major focuses of the Jail Work Center is to allow inmates the opportunity to repay the community. To be productive and accountable in a work setting with an emphasis on teaching responsibility and accountability for job tasks. This allows the opportunity to enjoy confidence in their own performance and for some to find employment as a direct result of the training for the jobs incurred while incarcerated.

This year has been a year of challenges from the weather, with the snow and ice in January and ending with the rain in December, to keeping the population constant with the change in population demographics. Much of the success and credit for the work that occurs at the Jail Work Center is a direct reflection of the efforts of the supervisors, who work hard everyday to meet our mission. These are Sergeants M. Harris, B. Tidwell, B. Farrell, D. Plotner, A.J. Ensley, J. Wells, Industry Supervisor Sheldon Russell and Food Services Manager Clark Campbell as well as all their staff.

Mike Anderson  
Facility Commander

## In Custody

Offenders classified to this unit work in one of the Jail Work Center Industries. These include food service, laundry, ground maintenance, janitorial duties and a Class II recognized industry that recycles electronic waste.

## Food Services

The Food Services Unit manages and operates a large centralized kitchen whose primary duties are to prepare and deliver meals to the Clark County Law Enforcement Center, Clark County Juvenile Detention Center and the Jail Work Center. This is accomplished by a professional staff of 13 who train and supervise two inmate work crews of 15-20 in all aspects of food preparation, safety and delivery.

As a highlight of last year, even with the debilitating snow and ice storm that covered Clark County, not one meal period was missed or adjusted.



## Laundry

The laundry operation currently runs five days a week, with a morning and swing shift. This group of about 9 inmate workers and 2 staff, along with cleaning all the linens and uniforms for the offenders at the Jail Work Center, Main Jail and Juvenile Center also process the laundry from the Clark County Medical Examiners Office. This includes the highly specialized handling of bio-hazardous items.

As an on going community project, this unit sorts, washes and returns unclaimed lost and found items from the Evergreen School District to the Evergreen Clothes Closet. These items are then distributed to those in need within the community.

This unit also introduced a cost savings this year. On the suggestion of Custody Office T. Peterson, laundry supervisor Sheldon Russell acquired the means and knowledge to silk screen the incoming supplies of inmate uniforms with the size and appropriate identification.

## Janitorial

This crew of approximately five inmate workers and a crew chief provide janitorial services for the Clark County Law Enforcement Center, Clark County Corrections, Jail Work Center, Mabry as well as Central and West Precincts.

## Class II Jail Industry

The Jail Industries Computer Recycling Program finished up it's second year by exceeding revenue estimations by 30 percent. This program diverts electronic waste from landfills. Offender workers take electronic items donated by the public and removes harmful or recyclable items from them. This service is also provided to businesses, but there is a cost to businesses to take their items. These items typically include televisions and computers. Usable computers are refurbished by local non-profits and then distributed to those in the local community with great need. After paying expenses associated with recycling the Cathode Ray Tubes, this operation surpassed the goal revenue mark of \$25,000 by 30%.

## Grounds Crew and Special Projects

Custody Officers manage and supervise offenders assigned to these duties. The number of offenders tasked with this function varies by time of year and by occasion. Not only are the facilities grounds maintained by this group, but they also perform litter pick up after public events, work at the Sheriff's Firearms Range and have assisted with various horticultural events around the county.

## Work Release

This is a partial confinement program which allows offenders who have been approved by local courts to continue their regular employment. Local offenders pay a fee for room, board and participation in the program. This program also facilitates state offenders who are transitioning back to their local communities from the State Prison System.

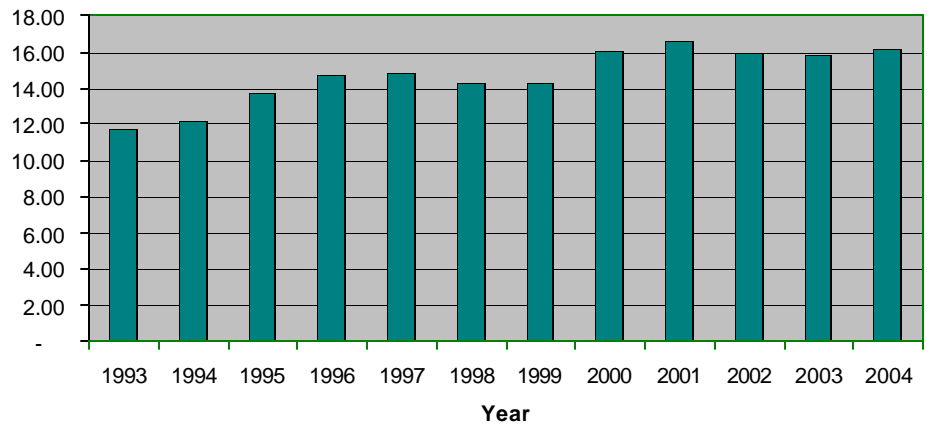


# Statistics

Average Length of Stay

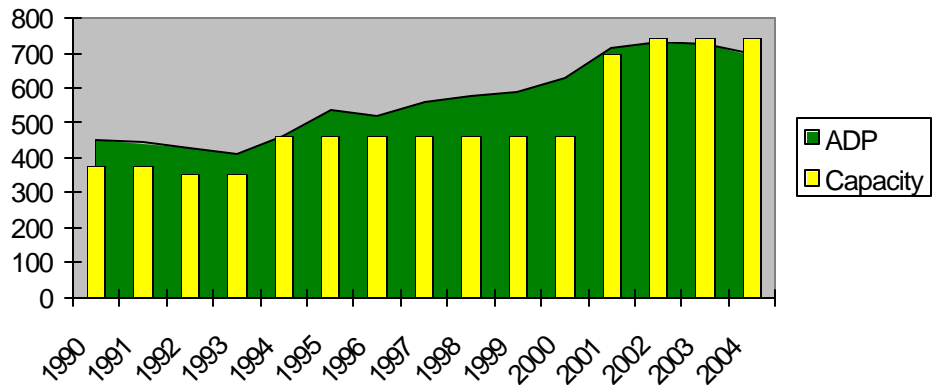
Year	Days
1993	11.75
1994	12.22
1995	13.76
1996	14.66
1997	14.89
1998	14.30
1999	14.32
2000	16.05
2001	16.64
2002	15.98
2003	15.77
2004	16.15

Historical Length of Stay

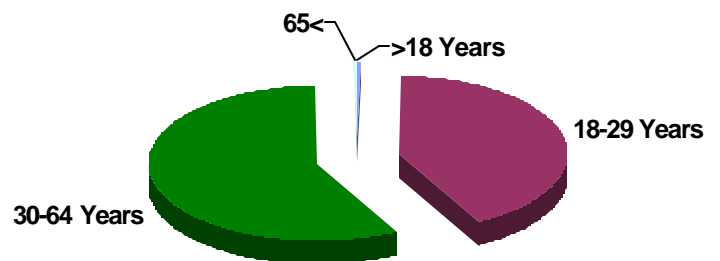


Year	ADP	Capacity
1989	452	378
1990	451	378
1991	442	378
1992	426	352
1993	413	352
1994	462	461
1995	535	461
1996	521	461
1997	561	461
1998	577	461
1999	588	461
2000	630	461
2001	716	700
2002	733	745
2003	724	745
2004	694	745

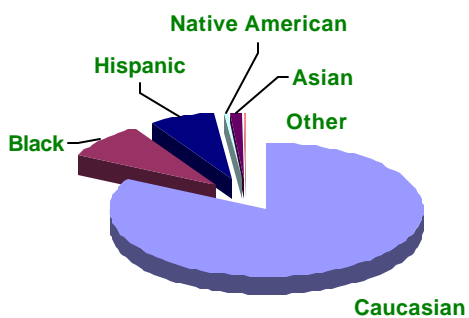
Average Daily Population v. Capacity



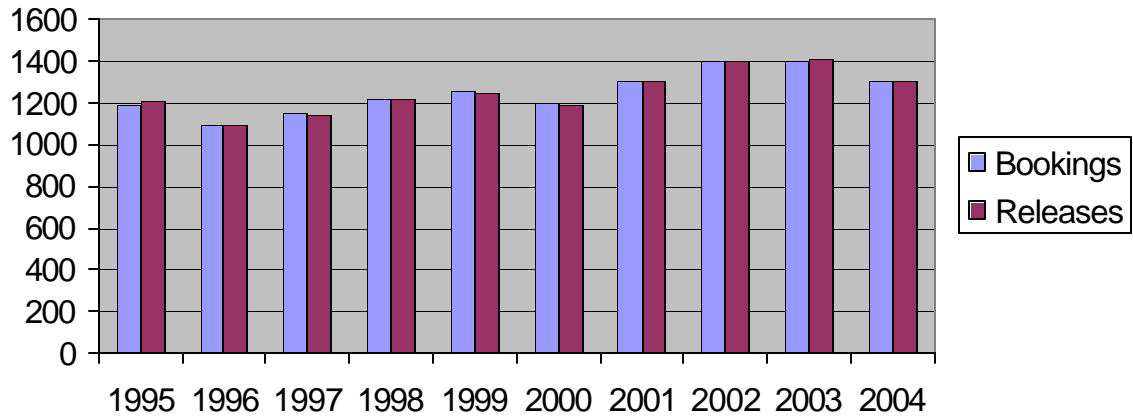
Age Demographics 2004



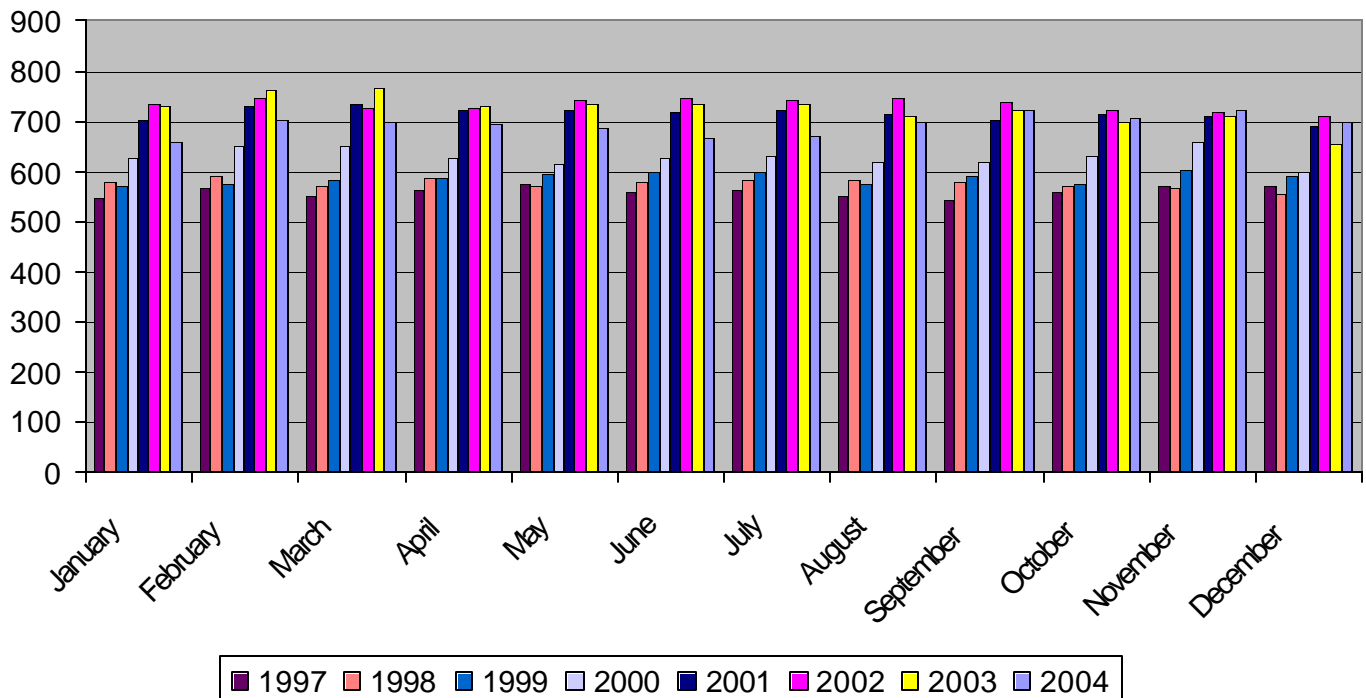
Ethnic Demographics 2004



### Average Monthly Bookings v. Releases



### Population by Month



### Jail Population

Average Daily Population—694  
Average Length of Stay— 16.15  
Bookings— 15,778  
Releases— 15,723

### Transport

Inmates to Court— 20,699  
Mini Chain— 3,296  
Out of Custody Not Chain—123  
Medical— 93  
Western State Hospital —137

### Medical Unit

Inmates Seen by Staff— 2,727  
Seen by Mental Health Counselors— 5,182  
Contracted Cost per Inmate Booked— \$125.49

### Food Service

Total Meals Served— 1,048,896  
Restricted Diets— 64,596  
Cost Per Meal— \$1.28

### Classification

Interviews—10,427  
Screen for Work Release—96  
Made Trustee—687

### Jail Operations

Escapes— 1 (Work Center)  
Escape Attempts— 1  
Suicides— 0  
Suicide Attempts— 9  
Assaults on Staff— 30  
Officers Injured— 31

### Work Release Operations

Walk-Away— 1  
Terminations— 41  
New Admissions— 325

### Inmate Discipline

Major Infractions— 1,155  
Minor Infraction— 1,318  
Top Three Major Infractions  
    Violation of Law  
    Refusal to Follow Orders  
    Fighting

### Staffing

Jail Administration— 6  
Custody Sergeants— 19  
Custody Staff— 120  
Support Staff— 5  
Food Service— 14  
Laundry/Industry— 4  
Medical Contract Positions— 17

### Jail Industry

Offender Hours  
    Kitchen— 93,364  
    Laundry— 20,407  
    Grounds — 5,793  
    Janitorial— 8,844  
    Outside—3,476  
    Industry—7,151

### Office Information

Tours—24  
    Participants—450  
Criminal Histories—650  
    Removed from Jail Access—404  
    Denied Jail Access—45

# Clark County Sheriff's Office

## Custody Branch

